

### Initial Questions and Answers Regarding Proposal to Consolidate Shaed and Emery Education Campuses in the former Langley Building

#### **Q: Why is this proposal being considered?**

A: Shaed has a very low enrollment relative to all other PS-8 schools in DCPS, and its enrollment has declined significantly over time. This makes Shaed unable to sustain a robust PS-8 school program with comprehensive academic and extracurricular opportunities. The Emery building lacks some of the physical amenities of a PS-8 school, which would be met through a move to the Langley building, just up the hill. By transitioning both Shaed and Emery students to the Langley building, we are confident we can enhance the academic, enrichment, and support services offered to all students. By closing severely under-enrolled schools, DCPS can reallocate resources currently spent on maintaining half-empty buildings towards programs that directly impact students.

#### **Q: What are the benefits of attending a school with a larger enrollment?**

A: Schools with a larger enrollment are able to offer more academic classes, extracurricular activities, partnerships, and support services to students at the school. With a larger staff, there are more opportunities for teachers to collaborate and work in grade-level teams to improve the instruction offered to all students.

#### **Q: When would this closure occur? What changes would take place this year?**

A: If this proposal is approved, Shaed would close at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Additionally, stakeholders from both school communities, with support from the central office, would work together over the course of the winter and spring to ensure a smooth transition for staff, students, families, and community. Students would transition to Emery Education Campus in its new site at T Street and Lincoln Road, NE at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

#### **Q: How would students from Shaed get to Emery safely?**

A: Student safety is the highest priority and we recognize the importance of ensuring that students are able to get to school each day safely. The two buildings are 0.7 miles from each other, so students should not have an excessive walk. We would work closely with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to identify safe walking routes and determine if additional crossing guards are needed or should be deployed in different locations. We would also work closely with the community to determine intersections of concern and how to address these.

#### **Q: What does the Langley facility offer?**

Under this proposal, Emery Education Campus would move into the Langley building in the fall of 2011, and Shaed and Emery would consolidate at that time. The Langley School building is located directly next to McKinley High School at 101 T St. NE. The building currently houses Hyde Public Charter School, but will be empty as of January 2011 after that school moves to a new location. The Langley building includes 100,000 square feet of interior space and several amenities to better serve children in all grades including two gyms and an auditorium. In partnership with the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), the Langley building will receive a phased modernization over the

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upcoming summers. During the summer of 2011, Langley will be upgraded and retrofitted to support the preschool-8 program and receive several infrastructure improvements. Work will include interior construction, cosmetic enhancements, and retrofitting of classrooms, restrooms, corridors, stairwells, as well as the addition of age appropriate play equipment, and repairs and upgrades to the building infrastructure such as roofing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, security/safety, data/connectivity. In the summer of 2012 OPEFM will undertake additional improvements as part of the phased modernization effort.

**Q: Would students be able to continue to participate in existing afterschool programs and partnerships?**

A: We are committed to ensuring that we retain as much stability as possible for students. Programs currently at Shaed would continue to operate as they do this year. We will work with afterschool programs and partners to determine if they are open to continuing their programs at Emery for the next school year. We would also solicit feedback from Shaed families on existing programs that are highly valued and would prioritize relocating these programs to the new site.

**Q: What are the program offerings at Emery?**

A: Emery Education Campus is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Catalyst school. Catalyst STEM schools design classrooms, lessons, and school culture to highlight STEM issues and skills as a theme within all core subjects. At Emery, students in all grades actively learn through discovery and hands-on lessons. Additionally, Emery offers Chinese language instruction as well as a wide range of sports and other extracurricular activities. Emery has partnerships with the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Swedish Embassy, and the Washington Wizards. We would also look at the partnerships and programming at Shaed and work to transfer successful programs and partnerships to the new school.

**Q: How would you address potential conflicts between groups of students from the two schools?**

A: Based on the experience of recent school consolidations, we are confident that with appropriate adult support, our students would be able to form positive relationships as they get to know each other. Proposing this closure in the fall allows school leadership ample time to work with staff, students, and families to ensure a smooth transition. If the proposal is implemented, there will be opportunities for students and families to meet prior to the consolidation to help facilitate a positive school culture.

**Q: How would staff at Shaed be impacted?**

A: Shaed staff would be excessed and subject to the provisions of the relevant collective bargaining agreements. We anticipate that as a result of the closure there would be additional positions available at Emery and that some Shaed staff members would be able to move to the new site if they choose. Staffing decisions for open positions at Emery would be made by Emery Principal Kelvin Moore once school budgets become available in the early spring. Any Shaed staff member who requests an interview at Emery will be granted one and considered for any available positions in their area. Shaed staff interested in working at the Emery will also have opportunities to learn about the school and will be able to work with their human resources staffing specialists to consider this and other options. Additionally, DCPS will hold several job fairs where employees can learn about and apply for available positions at other DCPS schools during the spring.

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**Q: What would happen to the Shaed building?**

A: Should this proposal be approved, DCPS would turn control of the Shaed building back to the city. The building would continue to have city maintenance and upkeep and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education would lead a community process around potential options for reuse.

**Q: How would the central office support Shaed during this process?**

A: If the proposal is approved, interested parents, teachers, staff, and community members from both schools would come together to develop a transition plan with central office support. This plan would include opportunities for groups of students, parents, staff, and community to meet and get to know each other, and for school staff to work together professionally to develop a shared vision for success. Depending on identified needs, other DCPS staff and representatives of city agencies such as MPD and DDOT would also provide support.

**Q: If the proposal is approved, would Shaed students receive a preference in the out-of-boundary lottery?**

A: Yes, if you would like your child to apply to attend a school other than Emery, current Shaed students would receive a preference in the out-of-boundary lottery. The out-of boundary application period is open from January 28, 2011 to February 28, 2011 and offers an opportunity for parents to apply for enrollment at a school outside their neighborhood school. Shaed students would have the second preference in the out-of-boundary lottery, after siblings, due to their status as students at a closing school. Applications are submitted online through the DCPS website, and staff from the school or from the DCPS central office will be happy to help families with the process.